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Your Cooperative Extension Service Reports

Iowa Farm Science Editorial Board

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For Your Interest

livestock

Vitamin A Beneficial In Steer Rations

ADDITION of up to 6,000 International Units of vitamin A per steer to beef rations improved the performance of feedlot steers in two experiments.

Vitamin E added with the vitamin A also was beneficial at a low level of vitamin A supplementation. Supplemental iodine, zinc or soluble silica, however, did not improve performance from a no-hay cattle finishing ration. These results were compiled by Wise Burroughs, Allen Trenkle and Richard Vetter.

Study Limited Feeding, Feed Additives for Swine

SWINE researchers at Iowa State University are studying three feed additives and the practicality of limited feeding in an effort to find factors which will bring top performance and desirable carcass characteristics in growing-finishing hogs.

Two studies show that limited hand feeding slightly lowers the amount of feed required per pound of gain and decreases backfat thickness. However, these improvements were not large enough to offset higher overhead costs brought by lower rate of gain.

Lysine additions improved performance of pigs fed low protein rations (10-12 percent). However, this performance did not equal that of pigs fed only a higher rate of protein (12-14 percent) with no lysine additions. When added, lysine did not improve performance of pigs fed these higher protein levels.

Another additive, a combination of chlortetracycline, sulfamethazine, and penicillin, brought significantly improved rates of gain and feed conversion rates when fed from three weeks of age to market weight.

A third additive, the male hormone, halotestin, increased the yield of lean cuts and decreased backfat thickness, but also reduced the rate of gain.

Researchers involved in the study include V. W. Hays, V. C. Speer, J. T. McCall and C. C. Culbertson.

farm business and management

Study Farms Bought With Land Contracts

IOWA STATE University economists have gained a picture of the nature and consequences of land installment contracts through interviews with 124 Iowa farmers in 1962 who previously had purchased farms through such contracts.

Land installment contracts have become an increasingly popular means of securing farm real estate credit during the last decade. Both buyer and seller usually gain from the contract. The buyer makes only a small down payment, while the seller retains more security because the title to the farm remains in his hands until a specified amount is paid on the farm.

John F. Timmons, N. William Hines, John Reynolds and Rufus Adegbeye conducted the survey. On these 124 farms purchased between 1951 and 1956 with land installment contracts, down pay-

ments ranged from 0 to 50 percent of the purchase price. The average was 20.9 percent.

Then from 1956 to 1962, the average percentage of equity of purchasing farmers in the farms increased from 44 to 72 percent. Long term debt decreased from \$24,166 to \$16,005 for these farmers.

But short term debt increased from an average of \$3,032 to \$4,600 during the same period.

special subjects

Seek Insecticides of Little Human Risk

ENTOMOLOGY researcher P. A. Dahm is studying the effects of insecticides on the enzyme systems of insects and other animals with the hope that new insecticides can be developed which are more toxic to insects than to man and other animals.

Malathion and CoRal are two present insecticides which are more toxic to insects than to man.

Dahm presently is studying the effects of parathion on the enzymes of female American cockroaches to see if this insecticide will give clues to these desirable characteristics.

Clear Lake Yellow Bass Respond to Higher Water

A STUDY of the fish population of Clear Lake by Iowa State's fish and wildlife researchers shows that yellow bass have grown from an average size of about 6 inches in 1961 to about 8 inches in 1963.

This growth is attributed to increased water levels which have risen from a low of 3.5 feet below normal. Yellow perch, on the other hand, showed little change in growth rate during low water.

In another part of the study, more pumpkinseed sunfish were found than bluegills in this lake. This ratio has not been found in Clear Lake since at least 1940.

Researchers involved in this study include K. D. Carlander, J. Hervey, J. Kudrna, R. Skillman and D. Thompson.